

## **RAPIDLY BECOMING A SPORTS MECCA**

LONGWOOD, Fla. - A combination of exceptional sports facilities, ideal climate and close proximity to Orlando's world-famous attractions are resulting in Seminole County becoming a sports mecca for national and international athletes alike.

Key to Seminole's sports success is the **Seminole County Sports Training Center** at Lake Sylvan Park in Sanford. A state-of-the-art, **15,000-square-foot training facility** opened in July 1993. It includes a weight training room, shower/locker rooms, a physical therapy and conditioning area, meeting and dining space, a catering kitchen and a 65" big-screen television with a satellite dish to allow athletes in training to view their performances on video or watch competitors' matches in progress.



Adjacent to the center are six 80-yard x 120-yard **international regulation sports fields** (for soccer, rugby, field hockey, American football, flag football and lacrosse) as well as nine tennis courts and four outdoor racquetball courts.

The permanent home of the **United States Soccer Federation**, the center was the home field for the gold medal winning **U.S. Women's Soccer Team** for 18 months in preparation for the 1996 Centennial Olympics in Atlanta. The team will be back in 1999 and 2000 to defend their title. Also, a designated **1994 World Cup training site**, the center was used by the Republic of Ireland World Cup team and soccer teams from around the world. In addition, the center has hosted the **U.S. Field Hockey Association Festival**.

Adding to Seminole County's appeal is the \$4-million **Seminole County Softball complex**. Located in Altamonte Springs, the complex has hosted a 48-team National Softball Association (NSA) national qualifier, the NSA girls 16-and-under Slowpitch Nationals, an American Softball Association (ASA) Fastpitch national qualifier, the Men's B Slowpitch ASA National Tournament and the Senior Softball World Series.

The complex includes five **lighted** Bermuda grass **fields** with **covered dugouts** and separate **electronic scoreboards**. Located in the center of the five fields is an 8,000-square-foot, three-story operations center which houses the concessions area, restrooms with showers, a meeting room and viewing balcony, an administrative office and scorekeeper areas. Parking and seating are plentiful.

The state-of-the-art **Lake Brantley Aquatic Center** in Altamonte Springs has served as the training facility for a host of Olympic-caliber athletes, among them the U.S. Water Polo Team, the Russian Water Polo team, the Italian National Men's Water Polo team, the Spanish Olympic Swim team, and the Canadian Olympic Synchronized Swim Team.

Elsewhere, there are more than 10 public or semi-private **golf courses**, as well as 18 **public parks** scattered throughout Seminole County for those “casual” athletes whose lifestyle is sports and exercise-oriented, with activities ranging from tennis to racquetball to volleyball to basketball to exercise trails.

**Additional sporting events** calling Seminole County home are the World Wakeboarding Championships, the American Powerboat Racing Superleague American Finals and the Professional Water Ski Tour.

### [About Seminole County](#)



Located just minutes north of downtown Orlando and a short drive from Central Florida attractions, you will find Seminole County, offering a unique travel experience. Visitors can combine nature and outdoor recreation, cultural and historic sights, sports training facilities, championship golf courses and shopping – all in a convenient, central location. With an array of 4,400 great hotel rooms, 50+ delicious restaurants and 2,000 lakes and waterways, Seminole County is truly ***Florida's Natural Choice***.

For destination information call **1-800-800-7832** (USA and Canada) or **407-665-2900** (outside the USA) or go “site-seeing” at ***www.visitseminole.com***.

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